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Meeting Topics

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Spring 2015

Volume 5, Issue 1

WSSM Members Teach Ham Radio Course at NWS

Gray, ME

by Tim Watson, KB1HNZ



GRAY, ME - Between January and February, *Wireless Society of Southern Maine* members taught a three-week amateur radio course and hosted an exam session at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Gray, ME.

Full Story



WSSM at the Maine State ARRL Convention

Lewiston, ME

by Tim Watson, KB1HNZ

WSSM VE Team Welcomes New Hams at Weaponcraft

Saco, ME

by Tim Watson, KB1HNZ



SACO, ME - The WSSM VE Team, which included Charlie Shappard W1CPS, Thom Watson W1WMG, Tim Watson KB1HNZ, and Dave Wood KB1FGF, hosted a VE Session on March 15th at Weaponcraft, in Saco.

Full Story



2015 Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge Results

www.simplexchallenge.com

by Thom Watson, W1WMG



This year's contest will be remembered for the blizzard that brought high winds and large snowfall totals to much of the state overnight and into the morning prior to the Simplex Challenge. One would



For the 4th consecutive year, the *Wireless Society of Southern Maine* set up a table display, complete with printed materials and a video presentation, as members were on hand to answer questions and talk about the hobby. About 350 spectators came out to take part in seminars, do some shopping, and meet other hams from around the state and New England.

[Full Story](#) >

Helping Dyslexic/ADHD License Candidates

[Elmers, Mentors, VEs](#)

by Frederick Benson

As VEs, license exam instructors, Elmers, and Mentors, we need to stay alert to license candidates with Dyslexia or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). Candidates with pronounced Dyslexia/ADHD tend to repeatedly fail license exams even after weeks of study and attending a license exam class.

[Full Story](#) >

QSL Corner

expect this to deter the participants, but the hardy Mainers who take part annually would not be denied. A large number of mobile operators still ventured out, and a few of them covered some serious ground.

[Full Story](#) >

WS1SM Team to Operate ILLW from Nubble Lighthouse

August 16, 2015

by Tim Watson, KB1HNZ



YORK, ME - The WS1SM Team will operate during this year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) from Cape Neddick Lighthouse in York, ME. The annual event, which last year saw more than 450 lighthouses activated worldwide, is now in its 18th year.

[Full Story](#) >

WSSM Celebrates 5th Anniversary with Special Event Call Sign!

July 13 - 27, 2015

by Tim Watson, KB1HNZ

WSSM members will have the opportunity to use the special callsign W1V between July 13-27th to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the club's founding. A certificate will be available to anyone who has QSO's during this time, and a schedule will be made available soon for any member who wishes to operate. Stay tuned for details!



Here's a QSL card received recently by Stefania Chiruta YO9GJY for a 28 MHz SSB QSO on December 12, 2014 with HT5T. The QSL celebrates the birth of Nicaraguan national hero and teacher Emmanuel Mongalo y Rubio.

[See More QSL's >](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 9th - from 7PM-9PM at the Gorham Recreation Department

May 7th - from 7PM-9PM at Gorham Recreation Department

Classified Ads

Check out the ads on page 2 to view items for sale, upcoming hamfests, announcements, and wanted items.



From the Editor's Desk

Spring is in the Air

With the long winter behind us, we can finally look forward to some outdoor activities, and we've already been busy working on getting permission for our next ILLW outing, which will take us to the Nubble Lighthouse this summer, as well as our next Summits on the Air (SOTA) event. As always, if anyone has summit suggestions, we're interested in hearing about them. You can [click here](#) to see if its on the SOTA list of summits. Thom W1WMG is also working on another lighthouse expedition, and we hope to have details on that by the next issue.

The last few months have brought some fantastic DX, as many rare entities were on the air during the winter DX contests, for DXpeditions, and most recently for CQWW WPX. Among the new ones I was able to get were [7QAA](#), [8Q7NT](#), [K1N](#), and [E3oFB](#). We've seen HF conditions range from very good for most of January through February, to barely usable when a massive solar flare disrupted communications during March 17-18th. The aurora that accompanied the flare, however, made for spectacular viewing in the northern hemisphere, and some brief openings on 6 meters.

WSSM members have been very active in helping out with SKYWARN during the winter storms that effected Maine and New Hampshire, most notably the blizzard that took place in late January. The nor'easter disrupted transportation from the Appalachia to Eastern Maine, producing heavy snow,

winds, and power outages along the way. Some of the highest snowfall totals of 35-37" came in the Worcester, Massachusetts area, with Cumberland county in Maine not far behind, with 25-30."

Ryan Michaelson KB1YTR, Thom Watson W1WMG, and myself have also worked on updating the WX1GYX station in Gray, replacing the power supply for the VHF radio and wiring the transceivers with Anderson connectors, which will make it more standardized and easier to switch and replace equipment on-the-fly if needed. The new power supply will allow the primary VHF radio to operate at its full potential.

Since many of us work full time, volunteers are always needed to man the SKYWARN station during weekdays, especially during thunderstorm season, which is fast approaching. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me, and we will provide you with all the information and training you need.

In other news, U.S. Representative Adam Kinsinger (R-IL) recently introduced the *Amateur Radio Parity Act* to Congress. The resolution, titled H.R. 1301, would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. Although homeowners' associations and deed restrictions are not as common in Maine as in other parts of the country, there are many affected, including some of our club members who live in condominiums. Please take a moment to read up on H.R. 1301's details, and encourage your representative to support the bill.

You can contact our representatives here:

[Chellie Pingree](#) (1st District)

[Bruce Poliquin](#) (2nd District)

Best wishes,

73,

Tim Watson
KB1HNZ

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